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Letter No. 2189

November 15, 1984

**WORLD CROP  
PRODUCTION**

Crop production abroad is estimated larger than a month ago, primarily because of larger harvests in China, India and Eastern Europe and improved production prospects for Argentina and Australia, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. With larger prospective supplies of coarse grains and wheat in both exporting and importing countries, projected U.S. exports have been lowered and 1984/85 carryover stocks increased.

**WORLD COARSE  
GRAIN SUPPLIES  
UP: U.S.  
EXPORTS DOWN**

The forecast of global coarse grain supplies for 1984/85 is up 3 million tons this month, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This will impact world trade patterns. The forecast for U.S. coarse grain exports has been reduced by 1.3 million tons, all in corn. This in combination with a higher crop forecast for both corn and sorghum results in a higher ending stocks forecast than the Oct. 24 report.

**WORLD WHEAT  
& U.S. EXPORTS**

World wheat supplies in 1984/85 are forecast up 1 pct. this month and almost 4 pct. higher than last year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Output is forecast up in several countries, including both exporting and importing. With higher foreign supplies and only moderately higher import demand, the forecast for U.S. exports was lowered by 1.4 million tons. The exports are still expected to be the second highest ever. Forecasts U.S. ending stocks and free stocks are higher.

**SOYBEAN OIL  
PRICES**

Soybean oil prices for 1984/85 are forecast to range between \$575 to \$705 per metric ton (26 to 32 cents per pound), down slightly from the \$675 per ton price in 1983/84 but up about 4 pct. from last month's indications. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, soybean prices are forecast to range between \$220 and \$265 per ton (\$6 to \$7.20 per bushel), up slightly from last month but about 15 pct. below last year.

**BLOCK TO  
BRUSSELS**

Sec'y of Agriculture John Block will attend a ministerial meeting between the U.S. and the European Community on Fri., Dec. 14, in Brussels, Belgium. The purpose of this annual meeting, the third of its kind, will be to discuss economic and trade issues with European officials.

**SOYBEAN EXPORT  
PROSPECTS**

U.S. soybean exports are trailing year-earlier levels by much more than had been expected during the first 2 months of this marketing year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Shipments to most destinations are lagging, particularly to the European Community and other West European countries, due to the large availabilities of competing feed stuffs.

USSR GRAIN  
IMPORT  
ESTIMATE  
HOLDS

The estimate of Soviet grain imports continues at a record 50 million tons, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Wheat imports from all sources are projected to reach a record 26 million tons, coarse grains--23 million and miscellaneous grains and pulses--1 million. Total commitments from all origins for delivery in 1984/85 currently stand at around 30 million tons with the U.S. accounting for about half. Unconfirmed reports continue from India about possible wheat sales to the USSR. The U.S. is the dominant wheat seller so far with sales already in excess of 6 million tons.

RECORD SOVIET  
WHEAT IMPORTS

Soviet wheat production continues to fall well short of annual requirements necessitating another year of heavy imports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Only 2 other crops in the past two decades were smaller than the 1984 harvest est. at 75 million tons. The 1984 spring wheat crop, the mainstay of the Soviet milling industry, was thought to be particularly hard hit this year. The 1984 winter crop also suffered both in quantity produced and in quality.

SOVIET COARSE  
GRAIN HARVEST

The 1984 Soviet coarse grain harvest is projected at 84 million tons, down 20 pct. from last year's outturn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Barley production, the Soviet's most important coarse grain, is estimated to be down sharply from last year's outstanding crop. The 1984 corn crop, down from the level of the past two years, is still well above the crops of other recent years. More of this year's crop was harvested for silage, and production of high moisture corn was likely increased. The USSR harvested another good rye crop.

USSR 1984  
CROP GRAIN  
EST.

The 1984 Soviet grain harvest continues to be estimated at 170 million tons, including 75 million wheat, 84 million coarse grains, and 11 million miscellaneous grains and pulses, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As noted last month, at 75 million tons wheat production would be the lowest since the disastrous harvest of 1975. The grain area estimate also remains unchanged at 118 million hectares (295 million acres) about the same as for 1971 and only 2½ million hectares (nearly 7 million acres) greater than in 1960.

CROP  
PRODUCTION

The following are the highlights of the Nov. 9 Crop Production report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Corn for grain production is forecast at 7.53 billion bushels, up 81 pct. from last year's drought-stricken crop, and 9 pct. below the record high crop of 1982. Sorghum grain production is forecast at 813 million bushels, up 70 pct. from last year. Feed grain production--corn, sorghum, oats and barley combined--is expected to total 232 million metric tons, up 71 pct. from last year, 7 pct. below the record high in 1982. Soybean production is forecast at 1.90 billion bushels, 4 pct. less than Oct. 1, 13 pct. below 1982, but 16 pct. above last year. (For more information, call 202-447-2127.)

OILSEEDS -  
LARGE  
SUPPLIES

Large oilseed supplies remain the dominant feature of the world oilseeds and products situation, despite a 4 pct. reduction in the 1984 U.S. soybean production estimate, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A substantial increase in world cottonseed production was only partially offset by reduced peanut production. The production forecast for all oilseeds is 184.2 million metric tons, down less than 0.5 percent from last month's forecast and up 11 pct. from 1983/84 production. (For more information, call 202-382-8231.)

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE "Feed Grain Crop Estimates"...USDA economist Sam Evans comments on the latest feed grain crop report released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and factors contributing to this current forecast. Victor Powell interviews. (251)

"U.S. Hog Industry"...USDA economist Terry Crawford describes some of the changes taking place in the U.S. hog industry and what these changes mean for agriculture. Victor Powell interviews. (252)

"Beef Performance Testing"...Gary Ricketts, an animal scientist with the University of Illinois talks about the advantages of beef performance testing to commercial cattle producers. ( Gary Beaumont interviews. (253) (Janifer introduces.)

"Stress and Disease of Animals"...Keith Kelley, an animal scientist with the University of Illinois, focuses on research being conducted to reduce stress related causes of disease. Gary Beaumont interviews. (254) (Janifer introduces.)

"Enzyme Research"...USDA research scientist Dr. Thomas McKeon describes research work being conducted to study the effects of enzymes on extending shelf life of vegetables. Victor Powell introduces. (255)

CATTLE  
ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed Nov. 1 for slaughter market in the 7 States preparing monthly estimates totaled 8.22 million, a 7 pct. increase from a year ago and 1 pct. above Nov. 1, 1982, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Marketings of fed cattle during Oct. totaled 1.66 million, an increase of 2 pct. from last year and up 9 pct. from Oct. 1982. Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 7 States were 2.55 million, up 3 pct. from Oct. 1983 but 2 pct. below two years ago. Net placements of 2.44 million were up 3 pct. from 1983 but 3 pct. below 1982. (For more information, call 202-447-6880.)

FmHA KEPT  
THOUSANDS  
IN BUSINESS

Lending programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture have prevented thousands of farmers from going out of business. According to Charles W. Shuman, FmHA administrator, "FmHA county supervisors in nearly 2,000 local offices scheduled, consolidated or reamortized loans for over 30,200 farm borrowers. They also deferred part of the loan payments due from more than 2,800 farmers. Without these special actions, these farmers would not have been able to continue farming."

WORLD  
TOBACCO  
SITUATION

U.S. exports of leaf tobacco were up 38 pct. in Sept. 1984 to 18,022 metric tons valued at \$106.9 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cumulative leaf exports for Jan.-Sept. 1984 were 135,165 tons valued at \$846 million, a drop of 7 pct. from the comparable period last year. Spain's leaf imports from the U.S. in 1984 are expected to expand 30 pct. Soviet leaf imports will be down in 1984. Japan is reducing leaf imports. Indonesia's imports of U.S. leaf are expected to increase this year. (For more information, call 202-382-9494.)

PUT ON YOUR  
NEW RATS

The largest rodent in existence reaches 4 feet in length, has coarse fur, no tail and is largely aquatic, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture declares it to be an exotic import. It's called the capybara, or carpincho, and is a South American rodent related to the guinea pig. The rodent isn't imported--his skin is, for making gloves. Two metric tons of skins were imported in 1983.

OFF MIKE

Big meeting in Kansas City for the National Farm Broadcasters Association with the usual heavy registration. And as usual, there were lots of awards given out and other exciting things to report. First and foremost, the new officers are: President, Johnnie Hood (WPTF/So. Farm Net, Raleigh, NC); President-elect, Ken Root (KWCH-TV, Hutchinson, KS); Vice-president, Evan Slack (KOA, Denver, CO). The National Vice-Presidents for the different regions are: Western, Terri-Rae Wallace (KFBK, Sacramento, CA), South Central, Kelly Lenz (WIBW, Topeka, KS); North Central, Tom Steever (KSOO, Sioux Falls, SD); and Ken Tanner (WRAL-TV/Tobacco Net, Raleigh, NC). Incidentally, Ken reports his regional meeting is set for June 7-9, in Asheville, NC. We'll have more on this and other regional meetings later ... Herb Plambeck (Living History Farms, Des Moines, IA), past NAFB president, received the organization's prestigious Meritorious Service Award. Our congratulations! ... Other awards: The TV Oscar in Agriculture award, presented by DeKalb, went to Bruce Scheid (KTIV-TV, Sioux City, IA); and the radio Oscar went to Taylor Brown (Northern Agri-Net, Billings, MT) with honorable mentions to Dan Modlin (Ind. Rural Radio Net, New Palestine, IN) and to Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, IA). Bob's co-worker Lee Kline also came away with an award, the famous (infamous?) "Foot in Mouth" award presented by Ciba-Geigy ... Skip Ragland of Ciba-Geigy also presented the Farm Broadcaster of the Year trophy and \$2000 check award to Wayne Rothgeb (WKJG-TV, Fort Wayne, IN) ... Orion Samuelson (WGN, Chicago, IL) presented two NAFB scholarships: \$1500 to Ron Arp, a University of Nebraska senior, and \$1000 to Barbara Baylor, a University of Illinois senior ... The Chemical Manufacturers Assoc. also presented awards for excellence in broadcasting. They were: \$1000 to Garth Clark (WLF, Lafayette, IN); \$750 to Bob Quinn (WHO, Des Moines, IA); and \$500 to Paul McDonald (KGIM, Aberdeen SD) ... Tenure awards and much more next week.

FROM OUR RADIO  
SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA #1433...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Things in the grape growing country of the Northeast aren't looking good. Brenda Curtis travels back to her home town of Westfield, New York, for a first hand look at the grape producers' troubles.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1422...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; Dairy diversion payments; Tree farms and animal power; Loan guarantees for credit initiative; Chemicals in underground water.

CONSUMER TIME #915...(Weekly reel of five 2½-3 min features) All about Extension homemakers; Don't spoil the deer; New tools for scientists; A "souper" holiday gift; Involving kids in the holidays.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Wed, Nov. 21, Poultry production report; Fri, Nov. 23, Red meat production; Mon, Nov. 26, Cotton and wool outlook; Tues, Nov. 27, Crop and weather update; Fri, Nov. 30, World ag. outlook, World dairy outlook, Ag. prices report. Dial the USDA National News Lines 202/488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. EST each working day.



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